SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 10 September 1984, at 10.30 a.m.

Acting President: Mr. MARTENSON (Under-Secretary-General
for Disarmament Affairs)

President: Mr. KORHONEN (Finland)

CONTENTS

Opening of the Conference by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee

Submission of the Final Report of the Preparatory Committee

Election of the President

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Adoption of the agenda

Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

Confirmation of the nomination of the Secretary-General of the Conference

Election of Vice-Presidents and of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of
the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee

Appointment of the Credentials Committee

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should
be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They
should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Official Records
Editing Section, room E.6108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Any corrections to the record of this meeting and of other meetings will be
issued in a corrigendum.
The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (item 1 of the provisional agenda)

SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (item 3 of the provisional agenda)

1. The ACTING PRESIDENT, after extending a welcome to all delegations participating in the Review Conference, suggested that items 1 and 3 of the provisional agenda (ENMOD/CONF.I/1, annex I) should be considered concurrently.

2. It was so decided.

3. Mr. KORHONEN (Chairman of the Preparatory Committee) declared open the First Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques.

4. In submitting the Preparatory Committee's Final Report (ENMOD/CONF.I/1), he noted with great satisfaction that all of the Committee's decisions and recommendations had been reached by consensus, as a result of the exemplary spirit of goodwill and co-operation displayed by all delegations participating in the Committee's work. After paying tribute to the contribution made by the other members of the Bureau and expressing appreciation for the assistance given to the Preparatory Committee by the Secretary-General and by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, he drew attention to other documents before the Conference which had been prepared at the request of the Preparatory Committee (ENMOD/CONF.I/2, ENMOD/CONF.I/3 and ENMOD/CONF.I/4).

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT (item 2 of the provisional agenda)

5. The ACTING PRESIDENT invited nominations for the office of President of the Conference.

6. Mr. TURBANSKI (Poland), speaking on behalf of the group of socialist countries, nominated Mr. Korhonen (Finland) for the office of President.

7. Mr. MIDDLETON (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the group of Western and other countries, and Mr. SHARMA (India), speaking on behalf of the group of non-aligned countries, supported the nomination.

8. Mr. Korhonen (Finland) was elected President by acclamation.

9. Mr. Körhonen (Finland) took the chair.

10. The PRESIDENT, thanking the Conference for the confidence it had shown in him personally and in his country, said he took that confidence to be an expression of appreciation for Finland's active policy in matters of arms control and disarmament. As a small, neutral country, Finland was always greatly interested in multilateral disarmament efforts in all forums available to it, particularly the United Nations, the Conference on Disarmament, and conferences for the elaboration and review of multilateral disarmament treaties.
11. The present Conference was being held in accordance with article VIII of the Convention and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/99 I. The objective was to review the operation of the Convention with a view to ensuring that its purposes and provisions were being realized. In particular, the Conference was entrusted with the task of examining the effectiveness of the provisions of paragraph 1 of article I in eliminating the dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques. The Convention was a valuable, if limited, measure of arms control. It constituted an important step towards precluding the possibility of using environmental modification techniques, and it thus furthered the cause of arms control and disarmament in general. Accession to the Convention was still rather limited, the number of States Parties at present being 45. In addition, 19 States had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it.

12. The Conference offered the first opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the obligations laid down in the Convention. It was to be hoped that the general debate and the review of the various provisions of the Convention would serve as a useful basis for constructive consideration of the Convention's effectiveness and would also provide the reference material for the preparation of the final document or documents of the Conference.

13. The review of the Convention should take into account the general considerations set forth in the preamble to the Convention as well as the operative provisions. By helping to promote the Convention's objectives, the review would thus contribute to the cause of halting the arms race and saving mankind from the dangers inherent in the use of new means of warfare. The Conference could also play a major role in the further work of excluding the potential use of environmental warfare in general and the use of environmental modification techniques for military purposes in particular. He counted on the full support of all delegations to the Conference in securing the fulfilment of that objective.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

14. Mr. MARTENSON (Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs), read out the following message from the Secretary-General.

"It gives me great pleasure to extend my greetings and best wishes to all the delegations participating in the First Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques.

"Your Conference is entrusted with the important task of reviewing the operation of the Convention with a view to ensuring that its purposes and provisions are being realized and examined, in particular, the effectiveness of the provisions of article I of the Convention in eliminating the dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques. I am confident that your Conference will so discharge its mandate as to promote wider adherence to the Convention.

"The Convention imposes on States Parties the obligation not to engage in military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques having widespread, long-lasting or severe effects and causing destruction, damage or injury to any other State Party. The potential danger inherent in the development of these techniques through scientific and technical advances hardly needs any emphasis. The Convention was designed to spare mankind from the disastrous consequences of environmental warfare. This purpose needs to be kept constantly in mind."
"In the 1960s and 1970s, a number of agreements, of which the ENMOD Convention is one, were concluded on partial measures of arms limitation and disarmament. Though limited in scope, such measures can play a significant role in fostering confidence and stimulating progress towards the adoption of further measures of disarmament. In the preamble to the Convention, the States Parties expressed their wish to contribute to the cause of halting the arms race and of bringing about general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

"It is a matter of profound and urgent concern that the Convention and other agreements have not yet been followed up by meaningful measures of disarmament. Indeed, the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, has continued unabated at an ever-accelerating speed. The world has witnessed a remorseless arms build-up and the continuous advent of new and more destructive weapons, as well as the qualitative refinement of existing ones. We are no closer to the goal of general and complete disarmament than we were at the time the Convention was concluded. An end to this situation is long overdue; we must halt the arms race and initiate the process of disarmament. It is my earnest hope that this Conference will inspire a sense of renewed commitment and dedication to this aim.

"I wish you all success in your deliberations."

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (ENMOD/CONF.I/1, annex I)

15. The agenda was adopted.

16. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Conference should take note with appreciation of the Preparatory Committee's Final Report (ENMOD/CONF.I/1).

17. It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE (agenda item 4)

18. The rules of procedure (ENMOD/CONF.I/1, annex II) were adopted.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NOMINATION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE (agenda item 7)

19. The PRESIDENT, after referring to rule 10 of the rules of procedure and to paragraph 19 of the Final Report of the Preparatory Committee, said that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had nominated Ms. Levin, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Department for Disarmament Affairs, as provisional Secretary-General of the Review Conference. In the absence of objections, he would take it that the Conference wished to confirm that nomination.

20. It was so decided.
ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS AND OF THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (agenda item 5)

APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (agenda item 6 (a))

21. The PRESIDENT drew attention to paragraph 14 of the Final Report of the Preparatory Committee (ENMOD/CONF.I/1), setting forth the Committee's decisions concerning the composition of the General Committee and the geographical distribution of the posts on the Committee. In the absence of objections, he would take it that the Conference wished to confirm those decisions.

22. It was so decided.

23. The PRESIDENT, referring to the subject of the appointment of the Credentials Committee, drew attention to rule 3 of the rules of procedure, which provided that the Committee should be composed of a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman elected by the Conference and of five other members appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. On the basis of the precedent established at other Review Conferences, he proposed that the geographical distribution of those seven posts should be as follows: Africa 1; Asia 1; Eastern Europe 2; Latin America 1; and Western Europe and other States 2. In addition, consideration of agenda items 5 and 6 (a) should be deferred to allow time for further consultations.

24. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.